

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 04039 102304Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 PC-01 SY-05 ACDA-12 COME-00
/097 W

-----078762 111955Z /64

R 102232Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0900
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, GT
SUBJ: GUERRILLAS BRIEFLY SEIZE TWO TOWNS

SUMMARY. GUERRILLAS, REPORTEDLY OF THE EGP FACTION, SURFACED LAST WEEKEND IN SOUTHERN AND WESTERN GUATEMALA IN PROPAGANDA ACTIONS. IN THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE SINCE PRESIDENT LUCAS' JULY 1 INAUGURATION, THE GUERRILLAS TOOK OVER THE TOWN OF PALIN IN ESCUINTLA DEPARTMENT, KILLING A POLICMAN AND WOUNDING ANOTHER. THE NEXT DAY ANOTHER GROUP BRIEFLY TOOK OVER THE VILLAGE OF SAN RAFAEL LA INDEPENDENCIA IN HUEHUETENANGO DEPARTMENT. BOTH GROUPS WITHDREW WITHOUT CASUALTIES, DISAPPEARING INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 7, EGP GUERRILLAS TOOK OVER THE TOWN OF PALIN (POP. ABOUT 7,000). THEY SURPRISED POLICE AT THE LOCAL STATION AND AFTER TYING THEM UP AND CUTTING COMMUNICATIONS, THE GUERRILLAS PROCEEDED TO HARANGUE INHABITANTS FOR 15 MINUTES ON THE EVILS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE "EXPLOITERS" AND PASSED OUT PROPAGANDA FLYERS. SOME OF THE GUERRILLAS CLASHED WITH A POLICE UNIT AT ONE OF THE TOWN EXITS AND KILLED ONE POLICEMAN AND WOUNDED ANOTHER. GUERRILLAS LATER DISPERSED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE CITY OF ANTIGUA.

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2. ON SATURDAY, JULY 8, ANOTHER GROUP OF REPORTED EGP GUERRILLAS

EASILY ENTERED THE UNPOLICED VILLAGE OF SAN RAFAEL LA INDEPENDENCIA (POP. ABOUT 1,000) IN CENTRAL HUEHUETENANGO DEPARTMENT. FOR 15 MINUTES THE BAND SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND LANDOWNERS AND HANDED OUT LEAFLETS, SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWING WITHOUT INCIDENT TOWARD THE NEARBY MOUNTAINS.

3. COMMENT. GUERRILLA ACTIONS END WHATEVER HOPES THERE WERE THAT TERRORIST ACTIONS MIGHT BE SUSPENDED PENDING EFFORTS OF NEW GOVERNMENT TO MEET SOCIAL NEEDS.
BOSTER

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